Further Newes of Ostend.

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LONDON
Printed by V.S. for Thomas Pauier, and are to be sold at his shop in Cornehill, at the signe of the Catte and two Parrots.
1601.

BRITISH MUSEUM

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IT hath bene declared in the former Booke, Intituled, The Oppugnation of Ostend, that this Towne hath heretofore diuers times ben attempted and besieged by the common enemie, but (Gods name be praised therfore) all was in vaine, first it was besieged by the Prince of Parma, in the yere of our Lord God 1583. then by Monsieur la Motte, Gouernor of Graueling, in the yere of our Lord God 1585, who were long before sollicited and importunated thereunto by the continuall sute and exclamations of the Flemings, who forgot not to labor and instigate the Duke of Burgundi also, euer since his comming into the lowe Countries to this pece of worke, specially in the yere 1596. after he had taken the strong Towns of Callice, promising great summes of money towardes the same charge, and paying some parte thereof into the Dukes treasury before hand. But the duke knowing that others had attempted the same before him with ill successe, doubted the like might happen to himselfe, whereby the glorie of his former victories might be darke-

ned: and therefore suffered the matter, at that time, to sleepe. Wherefore they of Flaunders (to auoyde the incursions of the souldiers of Ostend, and payment of contribution) tooke opportunitie of the present time, whilest the States forces were imployed at Bommel, in the yeere of our Lord 1599, and made round about the Towne sundry fortes and trenches for the better assuraunce of the passages. Yet finding (since the making of them) that the charges of those garrisons, and spoyle made in all places of Flaunders, by their owne souldiers, did farre exceede their former losses sustained by their ennemies, haue (with much more importunacie than at any time before) sollicited their Duke to entertaine this their honorable sute, promising (besides manie other necessarie seruices during the time of the siege) to pay him thirty thousand pounds starling monthly towardes his charges, and afterwardes (if hee tooke the Towne) nine thousand poundes starling euery month for the space of two yeeres next following. And while they made all these gay and liberall promises, they forgate not to alleadge vnto the Duke also, that nowe, euen at this present was the fittest time to take in hand this most glorious enterprise, that had beene offered these many yeeres, and might be accomplished by his Highnesse with much lesse difficulty, than by any other Gouernour before him, and that therefore hee ought in no wise to let slippe so fitte opportunitie, the like whereof, without all doubt, was not to be hoped for in many yeeres to come, and perhappes, not so long as hee liued: for they had certayne intelligence, that the Towne was slenderly furnished with souldiers, and much woorse with powder, shotte, and ordonance, and no victualles in the Towne to serue those few souldiers eight dayes: and further (which was the cheefest matter, and of greatest consequence among all other) Graue Maurice with all the States forces was nowe before the Towne of Bercke in Dutchland, which his

High-

Highnesse hande, with great foresight sufficiently prouided for, with more than a competent garrison, and al other necessaries fitte for the defence thereof, from whence the States forces, nor any parte thereof coulde be brought in so short a time, but that by a sodayne attempt against Ostend, he might, not onely breake, and make frustrate, the designes of the ennemy before Bereke, who (without all question) woulde, in all haste, raise his siege there, with imagination, to speede himselfe towardes Flaunders) and yet lose Ostend, before hee shoulde be able to come so farre with his forces, in any due time to succour the same.

And further added hereunto, that he was sure of one aduantage in this siege, for that they of Ostend, neyther had, nor could haue any horse, to incounter with his forces, and therefore his horsemen would so bridle the towne, that they shoulde not once dare to issue out of the Gates, nor to offer skirmish, or if they did, his horsemen would easily ouerrunne them, and cause them to retire.

The Duke not ignorant how commodious and honorable the taking of this Towne would be vnto him, moued partely by these reasons, but especially by the want of mony to pacifie the mutined souldiers of diuers places, and fearing the greater likelihood of greater discontentment to happen among his other souldiers and garrisons (with whom he was behinde hand for aboue thirtie months pay) thought it fittest for the present time, and most acceptable to his subiects generally, to imploy his souldiers in this halfe hopelesse attempt, where hee might (not with money) but with his ennemies sword pay a great many of these mutinous companions their wages, and preserue the rest from the like danger.

And because such manner of payment may be the better vnderstoode, it shall not be impertinent, to shew briefly, the manner thereof vsed by the Priests, Friars, and race of the

most cursed and diabolicall order of Iesuites, who for the maintenance of their Romish Church, perswade the common souldiers (as they doe all others in their shriftes, and when they lie on their death-beds) to giue liberally to the Church, to the end, that Prayers and Dirges may be made, and sung for their soules: such souldiers therefore as die, or are slayne before they goe to any seruice, bequeathe their pay to one monasterie, church, or other chappell, all which the Cleargy giueth to the King, or to their Duke, for the maintenance of the warres: and if any souldiers bequeathe their pay to their wiues, and children or other friendes, the same is neuer, or but very seldome payde.

The Duke of Ossuna, beeing Generall of the Dukes army was presently sent towardes Ostend, and comming before it the fift day of July *stilo nouo*, or rather, the fiue and twenty day of June, as wee write heere in England, planted his ordonance against the east end of the Towne, and the next day beganne to shoote and batter downe the houses: whereupon Monsieur Vander Noote, Gouernor of Ostend, gaue present order, that many of the houses and buildings, should be taken downe and defaced, and the stretes vnpaued, to the end that the enemies shot might the lesse offend the people and souldiers within the walls: and commaunded also, that al the women and children should be sent out of the towne into Zeland.

East

The nine and twenty day were 28. companies of souldiers sent into the towne from Zeland, with great plenty of victualles, and all other munition, fitte for the defence of the Towne. And the next day following, sir Francis Vere came to Ostend with eight companies of English men, who presently entrenched himselfe without the Towne on the south side vnder the walles, which was the onely place and fittest peece of ground, from whence the enemy might, with his canon, batter the walles, and hath euer since kept the same in

South

despite

despite of all the ennemies force, with eightéene or twentie companies, who daily haue giuen, and doe giue the enemy sufficient worke, to his great losse, and slaughter of his best and braueſt ſouldiers, as hath partely beene before declared in the former Edition, whereunto I referre the courteous Reader: yet thus much I thought good briefly to note by the way, for the better ſatisfaction of all ſuch as haue not read the ſame. Since which time hath beene written ſundry aduertiſements, as well from Antwerpe and Callice, as alſo from Zeland and other places, which I haue collected in this preſent Pamphlet, for the further contentment of all ſuch as are deſirous to reade and vnderſtand the ſame.

THe enemy obſtinately continuing his ſiege before Oſtend, & they likewiſe of the Towne with like reſolution defending the ſame, all meanes poſſible, and warlike ſtratagems, to anoy, or defend, are daily put in practiſe: the enemie with his ordonance thinketh to wearie them of the Towne, killing ſometimes 5. 6. 7. and 8. men in a day, for he ſeeth it a thing impoſſible to bring his ordonance ſo neere the walls as to make a breach: they of the Towne forget not to repay him triple intereſt with their cannon, though not with ſo many ſhot, yet with the death of foure and fiue of their enemies for one ſlayne of theirs.

The Duke of Oſſuna vexed daily with the continuall ſallies and ſkirmiſhings more then he deſireth, and great ſlaughter of his people: and finding the great inconuenience of the ground, for the ſpeedie bringing of his people from the Eaſt fort to the weſt fort to ſuccor each other, as neede requireth, hath with ſtraw, fagots, bauen, and earth, made a cawſey from Albertus forte to the eaſt fort, betweene the walls of the Towne and his fortes, yet far without danger of the ſhotte from the Towne, and hath alſo brought all his ordonances from the eaſt ſide, and planted the ſame againſt

the

the west side of the Towne.

The States horsmen which came from the siege of Berk, understanding that 500 Spaniards were sent out of Diest, and were marching towards the Dukes campe, made such haste after them, that they ouer take them, & fiercly assailing them on al sides, put them all to the sword, except some few which escaped by flight to carry newes of their ill hap.

Sir Frances Vere was hurt in the necke, and bruised aboue his shoulder, so that his forehead was therwith swoln, which hapned with the splintry of a carriage that was broken by a shotte from the enemies: but the hurte (as God woulde) is not great, neither is his person in any daunger thereby, although it was at the first somewhat troublesome vnto him. But within few dayes after hee departed from Ostend, to Middleborough, to conferre with his Excellencie, and the States, about these affaires, who are daily looked for to come thither, where they meane to make their abode, during the time of this siege, to the end they may with more expedition giue order in these weighty affaires.

The 1200. men that were prested out of Kent, Essex, and other places of England, and had laine at Vlushing, are sent to Ostend, with 3000. other old souldiers, all Wallons, and Scots, so that there lieth within the towne, and in the trenches without, some 8000. men besides 3000. more, which lie in shippes of warre before the towne, ready to be landed vpon any occasion, who are daily supplyed with all kinde of Munition, and fresh victuailes, in so much, that all victuals fitte for souldiers, are there solde very abundantly, and at reasonable prises, neither doe the souldiers want money, but are very well payde, whereby they may prouide themselues of all such necessaries as they want, and if any fall sicke, or are hurte, they are presently sent out of the towne, to Vlushing, Middleborough, and other places of Zeland, where they are placed in the Hospitalles, and are so dilli-

gently

gently attended, and carefully loked vnto, as themselues can with or desire, wanting neither meate, drincke, wine, physicke, nor surgerie, nor whatsoeuer else is fitte and requisite for their health and recouerie, but are cherished as if they were in their fathers houses: surely a most godly, and christian deed of the people of those countries, who (notwithstanding their continuall taxations laid vpon them for the maintenance of these long warres) do most liberally, and freely contribute euery man according to his estate and abillity in this most charitable action, which is a worthy mirrour to vs, and to all other christians, teaching vs to esteeme of the poore, and specially to haue a fatherly care of the souldier, who (while we sleepe quietly in our beddes, and goe without feare about our worldly affaires at home) must watch and ward day and night in all wethers, and as often as he shall be by his captaine commaunded, venture his life against the enemie, and as a bulwarke, stand betweene the enemy and vs for the defence of our liues, wiues, children, goods, and cuntry.

Sir Horatio Vere hauing commaund in his brothers absence, vpon Tuesday being the ninth day of August, offered skirmish to the ennemy which was long & fiercely continued on both sides, and diuers times supplied with fresh supplies, wherein the enemie lost 400 men, besides many that were hurt: and but ten souldiers of the Towne slayne, and such as haue lately come from Callice, say, that the Flemmings themselues reported there, that there were seene 84 wagons with sick and hurt men carried out of the campe. In this fight the ordonance of the Towne slew many, both horsemen and footmen, and as it was reported by marchants of good credit, there were in this fight seene 4 and 5 horsemen killed with one shot from the Towne, and sometimes, 10 and 12 footmen and more, were seene to be borne and carried away with one bullet.

If the enemy finde many such banquets before Ostend, I thinke he will quickly be weary of his fare, and seeke a more friendly hoast elsewhere: and furthermore they report, that it is incredible, to see and heare what great numbers of dead men are daily brought from the campe, to all the Townes and Villages neere adioyning to the Campe to be buried, most of them being Spaniardes, and Italians, Captaines, Alferoes, and other Commaunders, whereof many are buried in Friers weedes with great solempnitie, saying and singing of Masses and Dirges for their soules, God graunt we heare no worse newes of their fellowes.

They of Flaunders (vnderstanding that the horsemen of the States were come to Bargen vp Zome, and some of the footemen into Zeland, where the count Maurice was dayly expected, doubting that his Excellencie was purposed to land his forces in the land of Waste, with intent to ouerrun the country thereabout with fire and sword) gathered together all the Boores and Peasants of the countrey in Armes, and haue carryed what they could into the townes and places of strength.

The twelfth day of August was an other great fight with the enemy, the same continued an houre and more, and seconded with fresh supplies on both sides, sometimes the one parte, sometimes the other giuing ground, and the ordonance of the Towne playing vpon the enemies where they were seene to be thickest: in all mens iudgement there were slayne three hundred and more of the ennemy, besides many that were hurt, and there were 32. of our men slayne, and some few hurt.

There was a Mariner of Zeland in Ostend, that had his legge stricken off with a great shot, who was taken vp to be carried to the shippe, but before hee could be brought to the boate, hee was with an other shotte strucke thorow the body, that he presently dyed, and so was rid of his paine. The

like

like hapned at an other time to a souldier that was likewise slayne with the enemies great shotte, and being carried on foure mens shoulders to the graue, the coffin and corse were shot thorow with an other bullet, the men presently set the coffin on the ground, and ranne as fast as they coulde, striuing who should first get the shot.

Thursday the 13. day was a ship caled the Globe of Amsterdam met before Ostend, laden very richly, and is reported, to be worth 4. millions, which came from the riuer of Plate, and straights of Magellanes, the same ship had been out three yeares: and such as met this ship in their way from Vlushing, reporte that two M. men more shal be sent out of Zeland to Ostend, which will make vp the number of 13. M. men, besides the voluntarie, and others lately gone out of England, so that it seemeth some great and extraordinary peece of seruice is meant: God graunt courage and good successe to our people.

It is written from Antwerpe, that the Duke doth wonders against the Towne, and hath so besieged it both by sea and land, that there is no way left to succour the same, and that their Gallies lying before the hauen, haue driuen all the shippes of warre from thence, and suncke many: and yet (God knowes) the Gallies dare not once peepe out, or shew themselues, for the last time they were at sea, they found (in their returne from Sluice) their way so dangerous to escape their enemies hands, that they haue since, had small desire to hazard themselues abroade.

There hath beene some speeches, that the enemy made a rowling trench, to fill vp the ditches of the Towne, and so meant to enter the Towne ouer the walles, after hee hadde made the same of equall height with the walls of the towne, but in truth that supposed worke, was partly, for the repayring of his mounte, and making passage to free his souldiers from the waters, which mount was so continually beaten

with the ordonance from the towne, & the workmen so troubled with the issuings and skirmishings from sir Frauncis Veres trenches, and the towne, that the same could neuer be finished: but specially to defend his trenches on the north west side of the town from the fireworks, which they of Ostend did continually cast into those trenches, to the great annoyance of the enemy and destruction of the souldiers therein, which trenches lie within foure or fiue pikes lengths of the counterscarps of the towne: but if it were so, that the enemy could bring such a supposed trench, without let of waters and lay the same leuell with the wall (which great paynes the Duke need not to put his people vnto, for that the Gouernor hath offered to set open the Gates, and to let his people enter if they durst) the Towne being furnished with such a number of men, and many of them olde souldiers, the enemy would quickely be weary of that enterprise: for without all question, they are so strong of men within the towne, that if they had but one M. horse, and litte ground without the towne, they would not feare, but (with Gods help) to hazard a battel, and peraduenture giue the Duke as hard entertainment as they did the last yeere before Newport.

There passeth few dayes, but there are some sallies and enterprises made vpon the enemy, and many men slayne on both sides, but all men that come from thence, Callice, and other places, agree in this, that the enemy loseth 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. for one lost on our side: notwithstanding it is (by good accompt kept) written from Vlushing, that there hath beene aboue fortie M. great shot discharged against the towne since the first beginning of this siege, so that the weast side of the wall of the towne sticketh so full, and so thicke of great shot, as the like hath not at any time before beene knowne in any siege, and yet the Duke is no more likely to obtaine his purpose, than he was at his first comming before the towne.

The 21. day there came to London a French man from Callice,

Callice, who reported for certayne, that the King of Fraunce was, in poast, come to Boloigne the Wednesday before, and had appoynted to be at Callice the next day following, being the twentieth day of this moneth of August, which reporte hath since beene by diuers confirmed, and that it was the 22 day in the euening before he came into Callice, and also, that charge was giuen by the King, that euery townesman of the sea towns should haue, and furnish himselfe with ten pound of powder, and ten pound of lead or shot. The Frenchman abouesayd being demaunded concerning Ostend, answered, that (thanked be God) al was well, that there was no feare or doubt to be made of the towne, for they wanted nothing, but had all things plentifully fit for their defence and sustenance, and at very reasonable prices: adding further, that (if any man would accept his offer) he would wager a hundred crownes against three hundred, that the Duke shoulde not get Ostend, and be maister thereof these foure moneths.

It is also written from Callice, and confirmed by sundry which come later from Vlushing, that vpon saterday being the fiftenth of August, the enemy attempting some workes nearer to the towne than heretofore, had many pioners and souldiers, to the number of about a thousand, or more to guarde them, whereupon they sallied out of sir Francis Veres trenches, and beganne a very hote fight, and were seconded presently with a thousand footemen out of the Towne, the fight was very hote, and with great fury maintained on both sides, neyther side sparing the other, but euery one doing his best to kil his next enemy: but in the end, the enemies were forced, by the meanes of the artillerie of the towne, to giue backe, whereupon our men followed with such furie, that they forced the enemy, euen to his trenches, with slaughter of many of them, and followed so hard vpon them, that they seized seauen peeces of ordonance, which though the enemy a good while defended, yet in the ende, he was com,

pelled to abandon the place. But while our souldiers were earnestly busied to naile and choake the peeces, a barrell of gunpowder standing neere the ordonance, toke suddenly fire by reason of a match which the enemies had secretly layd of purpose to mischiefe our people, whereby some 150 of our souldiers were blowne vp, and scorched, yet not so sore hurt thereby, but that, with Gods helpe, many of them will againe recouer, and be able to do good seruice. Some reporte that this mischance hapned by one of the prested souldiers, comming too neere the powder with his match, but howsoeuer it hapned, the enemie presently hereupon came afresh vpon our souldiers, who being amazed with this suddayne mishap, and many not knowing what it meant, were forced to retire, but there were slaine of the enemies in the fight 2000. men whereof three C. and more were horsemen, besides three C. pioners, neither was this victorie gotten without losse on our side, for there were slaine of our men about 4. hundred, and neere three hundred hurt and scorched.

The gouernour of the Towne seeing the enemie to vse all meanes possible to approach nerer to the walles, hath caused the hauen ditch or banke on the southwest side of the Towne to be cut, thorow which floweth such abundance of water at full sea, that the same runneth a league into the land, euen to the forte of Isabella, which doth so amaze and terrifie the enemie, and all the cuntry thereabouts, that it is coniectured the enemie will not lie long before Ostend, for the first northwest wind that bloweth with any great gale, will cause the water to spred and ouerflow the cuntry much farther, and the cutting of the banke, causeth such a seperation betweene the trenches of both sides, at hie water, that they can not come one to the other by eight or nine score, for fiue houres space, neither with horse nor footemen.

banke.

It is reported by a souldier which came the fourteenth day of this moneth out of Ostend, that they fight and issue out

out of the towne vpon the enemy daily, and that there is no want of any thing in the towne: that the new way made for small shipping to come to the towne cut out of the head, was againe stopped and made vp, for feare of such inconuenience as might thereby happen to the towne through tempestuous weather. And that for the better assurance of shipping comming in by the olde Hauen, sir Frauncis Vere had caused a mount to be raised ioyning vnto the Hauen, whereuppon the enemies ordonance playeth continually: but they of the towne doe likewise continually repaire & make vp the same againe. And also he reported that some parte of the enemies trenches towardes the northwest, lay within foure or fiue pikes lengths of the townes counterscarps, as is before declared, & some other part of the trenches within eight or ten score of ours, the greatest part lay much farther off. That the water ranne euery tide a great breadth betweene the towne, and the enemies, so that in many of their trenches the ennemie stode aboue the knees continually in water, and at a spring tide the waters reached aboue their naulles, euen to their breasts, which waters, they of the towne with a sluice had deuised to keepe in, that with the ebbe the same coulde not return: at the first the trenches of the towne were annoyed with the same waters, aswell as the enemies: but since, they haue found remedy to keep the waters out of their own trenches. But the enemies are so greatly vexed with these waters, that they are oftentimes forced to goe out of their trenches, and to sit or lie vpon the banks and perapets: and then the ordonaunce of the Towne playeth so vehemently vpon them, that many of their carkasses are carried into the ayre: and further, the sayde souldier affirmed, that it was a thing vnpossible for the enemy to get the towne, as long as men, victualles, and munition might be brought in, which the enemie shoulde neuer be able to lette, though his shotte might cause some small danger in the day time, saying, that

Cabon de monte

if

if once rayne and fowle weather came, it was not possible that the enemy could keepe his trenches, but must be forced to abandon the same.

The fiue and twentieth day of August were two sallies made vpon the enemy, with great slaughter, for after the enemies were driuen out of their trenches, and with great fury followed, the horsemen came in so great troupes vpon our people, that they were forced to retire: but within two houres after, they issued the second time (after they had caused the ordonance of the towne to be laden with musket shot, and dice or square shot, imagining that the horsmen (as they did before, would with great troupes succour their fotemen) and with great resolution charged the enemy, and as they had done before, caused them to forsake their trenches: and following hard vpon them, the horsemen (as was imagined) came vpon our people, who with their pikes and muskets galled them shrewdly: but retyring in order, to bring them within the daunger of the townes ordonaunce, which were so well bestowed vpon them, that lanes were made amongest the thickest, and at last foure hundred horsemen slayne.

The count Maurice came to Middleborough the one and twentieth day of this moneth, the rest of his forces came from Dort in Holland with eight hundred saile great and small, but where he mindeth to employ the same, is vnknowen: God for his mercie sake (who is the giuer of all good things) graunt him victorie and good successe whersoeuer he goeth, and to all his enterprises: and contrariwise, confound the tyrannicall attempts of the bloody Papists, and of all their diabolicall and most wicked proceedings. Amen.

BRITISH MUSEUM 21 JU 26

FINIS.